



*Women's Connection*  
RESOURCE GUIDE

2023



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# WELCOME

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. (Philippians 1:3)” Paul opens up his letter to the Philippians this way, letting them know that when he prays for them, it is with joy because of their partnership in spreading the Good News. That, dear leader, is how we feel about you!

The Outreach team is excited to provide this resource for you as part of your Leader’s Guide for this ministry year. Out of the many places you could have chosen to lead, you choose to lead with Stonecroft, and we are so thankful for your partnership in this good work. We hope you find links and resources that encourage, equip, and empower you to continue the incredible work God is doing through you in your community.

We continue to invest in our Stonecroft leaders, outreach groups, guides, planning teams, Women’s Connections and beyond because we are confident God’s spirit is at work! Our goal is simple – to equip and support leaders of prayer-filled communities who create spaces of warm welcome and gracious hospitality where relationships and leaders are developed, so the gospel can be shared. We want every woman to have access to a community where she can hear and know that God loves her, and that she can feel confident sharing that with others.

Because she cannot wait,

*Eliza Bast*

ELIZA CORTÉS BAST

VICE PRESIDENT OF OUTREACH



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Connections Team

800.525.8627 | [CONNECTIONS@STONECROFT.ORG](mailto:CONNECTIONS@STONECROFT.ORG)

Contact the Ministry Support Connections Team regarding general (non-financial) support such as general ministry questions, finding a Group location, and ordering resources for your Women's Connection Group.

## Group Finances Team

800.525.8627 | [GROUPFINANCES@STONECROFT.ORG](mailto:GROUPFINANCES@STONECROFT.ORG)

The Group Finances Team is here to assist with financially related questions concerning your Group. The team members act as the key contacts for Chairs and Financial Coordinators when assistance is needed for Financial Summary questions.

Ministry Support is available Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 4:00pm Central Time

# GROUP SUPPLIES

Stonecroft offers Women's Connection Groups various supplies for use at Women's Connection events and serve as tools used to ultimately share the gospel. Instructions on how to order supplies are included at the back of this catalog. Below is a list of current supplies available.

## A New Beginning Booklet



**Packaged in sets of 10**

This booklet is given by the Speaker to each one who indicates a decision to receive Christ or an interest in learning more. Chairs provide booklets to speakers.

## A Gift for You Booklet

**Packaged in sets of 10**

Table Hosts can thank first-time guests at the end of the event by giving them a simply wrapped A Gift for You booklet.



## Comment Card

**Packaged in sets of 100**



Your Table Hosts distribute these when the Speaker prompts. Remember to encourage each person to complete one.

## Welcome Card

**Packaged in sets of 100**

Given to each guest as she comes into the event. Encourage women to complete their welcome cards.



## General Giving Envelope

Packaged in sets of 100



Individual Contribution Envelopes -  
used for gifts to Stonecrock  
Size: 3 5/8" x 6 1/2"

## Large Offering Envelope

Request actual number desired (singles)

Large envelopes to be placed on  
the tables to hold individual  
contribution envelopes and cash  
donations.

Size: 9" x 4"



## Financial Summary Envelope

Request actual number desired (singles)



A standard #10 envelope used  
to return the completed  
Financial Summary and other  
documents to Stonecrock  
following your meeting.

# GROUP FINANCES + GIVING

Thank you for sharing Stonecroft's vision at each outreach event. Provide attendees with the opportunity to support Stonecroft at every event!

## Financial Summary Form

Packaged in sets of 12

Financial Summary Forms are used to record financial transactions associated with your event and must be submitted to Stonecroft Home Office (along with the most current bank statement) immediately following an event.

Please note: Be sure to complete the Group Ministry section on this form where you report vital information regarding attendance, first-time guests, decisions for Christ, and more. Chairs and Financial Coordinators work together to ensure this information is reported to Stonecroft accurately and in a timely manner.

## Stonecroft Fundraising Event Form

Packaged in sets of 6

Financial Coordinators use a special form for reporting fundraisers (other than the usual white Financial Summary Form).

# NEWEST SMALL GROUP STUDIES



## Ordinary People. Extraordinary Influence. *Leaders Kit*

The Ordinary People, Extraordinary Purpose studies are about big ideas that engage almost everyone.

Each study helps the host lovingly lead participants to discover that God loves them and created them for a purpose.

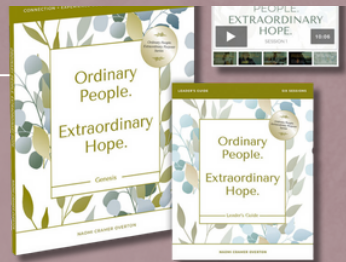
Extraordinary Influence is the second book in this series designed to help you host a small group as you explore faith together.

This Leader's Kit has what hosts need to facilitate an engaging, high impact experience and journey through the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Nehemiah and Esther.

## Ordinary People. Extraordinary Hope. *Leaders Kit*

Ordinary People. Extraordinary Hope is the perfect onramp to help you and your friends find answers to your most brave and vulnerable questions, including:

“Why am I here?” “Am I really loved?”  
“What’s my purpose now?” and “How do I make sense of the wild swings of joy and hardship in this life?”



All of our most up to date resources are on  
<https://stonecroft.outreach.com>

If you are looking for our other small group studies visit  
[www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)



# CONNECT POINTS

## Leader Calls

The monthly Leadership Development Zoom Calls are a great way to connect with leaders throughout the nation.

Each of our **FREE** monthly calls focuses on a different topic. The calls are informative, interactive, and recorded so you can share the valuable information with your team. Our time together is an opportunity to learn from and to interact with leaders from across the nation, so be prepared to come away from the call each month with fresh ideas that you can share with your group, no matter what community you serve.

Our communities and our calls may all look different, but the one constant is that we will always be focused on serving together because...

**We are leaders of praying communities who create spaces of warm welcome and gracious hospitality where relationships and leaders are developed, so the gospel can be shared.**

This is what Leadership Development is all about and it will remain the focus of each call and all we do here on our program team. We are so delighted to be your Program Specialists and honored to serve alongside you as sisters in Christ.

## Zones

Kingdom Impact Zones are a way of connecting our sisters across the nation with home office. Each of the 9 Zones will be led by a Zone Regional Administrator (ZRA) who will work closely with the Program Specialists. Zone Leadership Teams will meet regularly via Zoom and in person to resource, train, and celebrate with the women in their regions. The teams consist of a Zone Regional Administrator, with Team Leads over Prayer, Small Groups, Speakers, Relational Evangelism, and Finance. Each Zone will also have a Mission Mobilizer who will help identify new leaders and launch new groups and outreaches throughout the nation. We are so excited to see the Kingdom Impact that is still happening after 85 years!

## Relational Evangelism Bootcamp

Relational Evangelism Bootcamp is a simple and informative way to be aware of opportunities to share your faith in everyday life. Bootcamp consists of just a few of the key essentials from the Relational Evangelism course that Stonecroft has offered for some time now. This training is being provided especially for leaders like YOU free of charge. Bootcamp is a wonderful way to stay on mission within your group. If you are serving in a leadership role at Stonecroft, we ask that you complete this training and that you encourage all members of your planning team to either attend with you or individually.

### **Options for Training:**

The Relational Evangelism Bootcamp webpage is designed with you and your leadership team in mind. You decide how and when to complete the training: <https://my.stonecroft.org/relational-evangelism-bootcamp/>

### **Consider the best training option for your team:**

- *Individual Viewing* - View the videos at your own pace, whenever it fits your schedule.
- *Team Session* - Gather your leadership team and view the videos together. Everything you need is accessible on the Relational Evangelism webpage, including a companion handout for discussion and prayer time.
- *Live Interactive Sessions* - You and your team are invited to attend a live interactive session (approximately 1.5 hours), where a Stonecroft Program Specialist and Relational Evangelism Leadership Team member will share and discuss the videos with attendees. You will find a calendar on the webpage where you can view details and register for upcoming sessions.
- *Regional Events* - If you are planning a regional event and would like to offer RE Bootcamp training at your event, please contact your Stonecroft Program Specialist for more information.

Whichever training you choose, please complete the feedback/training report as we would love to hear about your experience. It is our desire that every planning team completes this training!

Dear Stonecroft Leaders,

Mental health crises and rising suicide rates point to what the Bible reveals: Everyone, everywhere, needs Jesus.

What is the solution to our world's need? Jesus' answer is US. In fact, in the final chapter of each Gospel, Jesus gives this command: Share the message. Strategically, Christian women are uniquely positioned to share Jesus in this anxious era because women are powerfully relational. When people feel anxious, relationships matter even more. The way you befriend and invite not-yet-believers, and your hospitality and words of witness, break through!

Stonecroft began so simply yet became a worldwide movement. And going back to our simple roots is the greatest promise for our future. While we began with a gifted evangelist praying with one other woman, the movement grew through ordinary women who prayed, and obeyed, starting small circles for outreach, trusting an extraordinary God.


You are Stonecroft; we are Stonecroft. And I thank you for making our vision, values and mission a reality. I've included those on the next page so you can print it out, fold it to make a table tent, and keep it before you to remind you of the vital work God has called you to, with Stonecroft. Thank you!

She cannot wait to know Jesus, and so we, like Esther, gather and pray, and go...

*Dr. Naomi Cramer Overton*

**DR. NAOMI CRAMER OVERTON**  
**PRESIDENT + CEO**





PS - Good news! Since 2018, we have aimed to share the Gospel one million times by 2025. We are 95% of the way to this goal, and 2 years ahead of target! The Stonecroft sisterhood (that's you and me) has shared the Gospel 951,393 times through March of this year. Praise God with me and accept my deepest appreciation for your service to our LORD.

### **WHY do we exist?**

Our Vision is primarily to see women reconciled to God through Jesus Christ as a result of God using a sisterhood of believing women in every region of our nation to pray for the salvation of unbelieving women and faithfully and relationally proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **WHO are we?**

We are women who live by these values: Christ Centeredness, Prayer, Scriptural Authority, Relational Evangelism, Leadership, and Integrity.

### **HOW do we serve?**

Our Mission is to inspire, encircle, equip, and engage thousands of women to shine Jesus' extraordinary love in their ordinary, daily lives so that no woman misses out on knowing that God loves her simply because her believing friends feel unsure about sharing the Gospel.

# Prayer Connection

You will find the Prayer Connections for November 2023 through April 2024 within the same envelope as this guide.

Prayer Connections will also continue to be accessible on our website.

**Multiple Months Available in Advance:** November through April Prayer Connections are posted and available to you for immediate download. To download a complete version of the Prayer Connection for each month listed above, please visit <https://my.stonecroft.org/prayer-connection>

Please note that Prayer Connections through April 2024 are available online *now* so that you may adequately prepare ahead of your meeting! In the past, we posted one Prayer Connection at a time. This has changed! You now have access to multiple months in advance.

**How can we assist you?** If you are unable to access the complete version of the Prayer Connections online, please email us at [connections@stonecroft.org](mailto:connections@stonecroft.org) for assistance. We will be happy to email you a PDF of the complete set. Please include your name, group name, and shipping address within your email request.

Scan me!



# Friends of Stonecroft

On the following pages, you'll find Friends of Stonecroft stories to share in the months of November 2023 through April 2024. The Friends of Stonecroft will continue to be accessible on our website.

**Please include the information below at the end of each presentation of the Friends of Stonecroft.**

When you give to Stonecroft, you help women...

- Experience the joy of discovering their extraordinary purpose and calling.
- Belong to a community of women committed to making a difference together.
- Receive the training and resources needed to become life-changers and influencers in their families and communities.

[IF YOU ARE MEETING ONLINE, put link in chat box and on screen]

Give easily to Stonecroft at [Stonecroft.org/friendsdonate](https://Stonecroft.org/friendsdonate). This is the fastest and easiest way to give. You'll get an automatic receipt for your records. After the event today, you will be directed to a page on Stonecroft's website with a donation form.

[IF YOU ARE MEETING IN PERSON]

At your tables, you will find envelopes. The easiest option is to use a credit card. Once you have filled out the information and inserted your gift, give it to your hostess or put it in the large envelope in the middle of the table.

**Thank you** for continuing the life-changing work of Stonecroft through your gift.

# November *Friends of Stonecroft*

Jan Mathers, longtime Stonecroft volunteer, shares how Stonecroft has impacted her life...

I was a committed Christian when I attended my first Women's Connection luncheon. Because I had an enjoyable time, when I filled out a response card, I checked a box that said, "I will help in any way." It wasn't because I was looking for something more; I liked my life as it was – wife, mother, partner with my husband in our business, and Children's Church Supervisor. I had no inkling of how drastically my life would change due to checking that box – I only knew that at that luncheon, I'd been amongst an unusual caliber of women, and I wanted to know them more. The women I met that day saw potential in me I'd never imagined. They not only saw that potential, but they also provided the means for me to reach it. And there didn't seem to be a limit; they just kept throwing out opportunities, stretching me with bigger challenges, and always, always, always covering me with prayer, wrapping me in encouragement.

That first luncheon was 32 years ago, and still today, I will never walk away from an opportunity to be around the unusual caliber of women to be found in Stonecroft. More than anything else in the world, I want to be to other women, what Stonecroft women have been to me.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*

## Friends of Stonecroft

# December

Carolyn was invited to a Stonecroft luncheon nearly a lifetime ago.

And in that lifetime, she has held almost every position on the Planning Team and many regional roles. It has been decades of serving alongside other women to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “I didn’t realize it at the time,” Carolyn said, “but it’s helped me develop a better worldview and a better local view of how I can fit into God’s plan to reach out to others in my sphere of influence.” She has seen God work in the lives of individuals who accepted God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ because of the message of the speakers she has trained. Carolyn has also seen the women she volunteers with be developed into leaders and support one another in amazing ways. “It’s been pleasing, I know, to the Lord, and has consolidated efforts to reach out into communities,” Carolyn explained. “I think women need the companionship of other women, and Stonecroft has given that opportunity. I remember when I served on my first Planning Team. It was like another family.

The women were so close and helped one another.” She said this has been consistent through the years, with this feeling of tight family and companionship as they have served alongside one another. Perhaps Carolyn’s greatest joy is the opportunity to get to know so many women from different kinds of churches.

“To see all these women come together for a common purpose, it’s not a competition; it’s a cooperation,” Carolyn explains. Surely this kind of unity and cooperation is extraordinary in a world that wants to see us divided. Carolyn sees it as one of the shining examples of Stonecroft’s strength.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*



# January

## Friends of Stonecroft

In the 70's and 80's, Stonecroft missionary Sarah Page Friesen was key in beginning the first Stonecroft groups in Paris.

In 1970, the first Stonecroft group tea in Europe was held in Paris. The entire program was translated from English into French and vice versa. The event had an enthusiastic response. In Sarah's words, "It went over really big." In 1971, they also launched annual retreats, with great success. They began to see women connect to one another and respond to the events. Because the men saw the impact these were having on their spouses, they requested an event for men. Aiming to please and fulfill a spiritual need, the Paris leaders organized a men's night with over 200 attending.

Over the years, five additional groups were started in the Paris area from that original group. In 1980, Sarah began working with the Stonecroft leadership and was soon asked to become chair of the Paris board, a position she held for 18 years. Stonecroft Bible Studies were steadily translated into French, and numerous study groups formed in homes as the work flourished. In addition to the six outreach tea groups, two-day seminars each fall and the popular spring retreats drew many French women. Soon, all events were held entirely in French. From the start, French women joined the missionaries to lead the ministry and are now developing and expanding it. Sarah retired and returned to the States in 2006. She had helped plant groups that still exist today, and they are continuing to make impact on men and women alike. Countless women trace their spiritual growth to the French version of a Stonecroft group.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*

A large, faint fingerprint graphic is visible in the background of the top left corner of the page.

## *Friends of Stonecroft*

# *February*

Five years ago, a Stonecroft group in Cheyenne, Wyoming, was on the verge of closing for lack of leadership and a place to meet. This made hosting outreach events almost impossible. The team that was in place was just worn out.

By the world's standards, they were done.

A small group of women, passionate about Stonecroft's vision to see women reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, refused to give up. They continued to pray diligently for leaders. It took several years of struggle, but they persisted in prayer.

They started meeting at different churches, which helped introduce Stonecroft to people who caught the vision. The group has a growing leadership team and renewed vision for those who have been soldiering on. Attendance at their events is steady and growing, with several new people coming each time.

Stonecroft leaders are dedicated women, continuing to reach even in hard seasons. They love the women in their community well and are committed to pray, to plan, to prepare, and to persist.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*

# March

## Friends of Stonecroft

Lynn recently had to step away from ministry to care for her mother, who had Alzheimer's. When she was able to come back to ministry with Stonecroft, God confirmed a calling in her to share how He has worked in her life by writing about some of the hard things she has faced and how He saw her through it. And at a Stonecroft event, God lovingly confirmed her yet again.

"I was thrilled to sense God's leading to attend the Stonecroft conference in spite of financial and travel companion obstacles," Lynn said. "Our Lord who moves mountains got me there! Each speaker poured into my life, but none more than Dr. Liz Selzer."

Dr. Selzer spoke honestly about her failed marriage and feeling disqualified from ministry. It resonated deeply with Lynn. "Her courage to tell her failed marriage story inspired me to finally break free from fear of telling mine," Lynn explained. The barrier of fear was removed so Lynn could move forward to tell women about their best life in Christ.

Even when Lynn thought she wasn't worthy of sharing her faith with others, through God's sisterhood at Stonecroft, she found she were more than worthy and capable.

Now her story helps more women than she ever imagined it might.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*

# *Friends of Stonecroft* April

Every fall, Ashley pulls out her recipe for Chai Frosted Cupcakes. She and her young daughter Ellie mix the ingredients as they pray for the people who will receive them.

The house smells amazing as they bake. Ashley writes the cards that will be delivered with them.

Once they're frosted and packaged, out the door they go.

They have joy to deliver in the form of cupcakes. The beautiful thing is that it is as much fun for Ashley and Ellie as it is for those who are gifted this little treat.

Ashley loves to share ideas like this with her Stonecroft circle. They connect and plan ways to encourage those around them. They want to express God's love in real ways that help people feel seen and cared for.

Stonecroft women are all about loving those around them toward Jesus, and sometimes, it's through a cupcake.

*\*Please see page 12 for additional information.*

## HOW TO PLACE AN ONLINE ORDER

- 01 Please go to the home page on [stonecroft.org](http://stonecroft.org)
- 02 Click "Login" on the top bar
- 03 Select "Women's Connection" from the dropdown menu
- 04 Scroll down and click on the blue box entitled "Click here to order your supplies!"
- 05 Enter your contact and shipping information
- 06 Select the quantities desired
- 07 Click "Submit"

If you have successfully placed an order, you will immediately receive a confirmation email!

If you do not receive a confirmation email, please email [connections@stonecroft.org](mailto:connections@stonecroft.org) to confirm your order.

*Scan me!*



### LINKS

**Small Group Studies:**  
[stonecroft.outreach.com](http://stonecroft.outreach.com)  
[www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)

**Order Group Supplies:**  
[my.stonecroft.org/group-supplies-order-form](http://my.stonecroft.org/group-supplies-order-form)

**Friends of Stonecroft:**  
[my.stonecroft.org/onevoice](http://my.stonecroft.org/onevoice)

**Prayer Connection:**  
[my.stonecroft.org/prayer-connection](http://my.stonecroft.org/prayer-connection)

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT + TRAINING

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CALL REGISTRATION

Spotlight on Group Finance | Sep 28, 2:00pm CT:

Meeting ID: 819 3115 7747

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdOipqzwtHtP6gkCe1psNDjW1acak5xOs](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/81931157747)

Reach our Communities over the Holidays | Oct 24, 2:00pm CT:

Meeting ID: 823 5252 8423

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYucuuTrDMuGNcpcKykOuiD2OejMYmomcaK](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/82352528423)

Christmas Celebration | Dec 7, 6:00pm CT

Meeting ID: 848 0184 0969

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAld-igqjsjHN2ZwbddTS-6ZedFSzLBmFrI](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/84801840969)

## RELATIONAL EVANGELISM BOOTCAMP REGISTRATION

RE Bootcamp with Ann + Sage | Sep 18 @ 7:30 pm CT:

Meeting ID: 857 0456 8899

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-2tqDMiE91SJGaQbAC8F\\_xTxkW3xlCW](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/85704568899)

RE Bootcamp with Ann + Sage | Oct 12 @ 12:00 pm CT:

Meeting ID: 881 0533 4211

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-yrrT8oG9XZks6CjytAavmkGtl7zF7](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/88105334211)

RE Bootcamp with Char + Lynne | Oct 12 @ 6:00 pm CT

Meeting ID: 861 3642 2047

Link: [https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlSdO-srDkqHtOVmkOyu-RtcrC-nBlX1RPd](https://stonecroft-org.zoom.us/join/86136422047)

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